

US.Pat.Apl.Nr: 10/ 757,563

Docket 364-12US

Amended Claims

as submitted in response to O/A dated 19 August 2004

Claims now cancelled: (none)

New claims now added: (none)

Claims now amended: 1,2,3,7,12,13,14,15

Preferred order of claims as now presented: 1-11,14-18,12,13.

CLAIM 1 (currently amended). A game apparatus, wherein:

- [2] the apparatus includes a bowl-shaped receptacle, suitable for resting on the ground, having a bowl-floor;
- [3] the apparatus includes a post, preferably in the form of a bottle, having a top rim;
- [4] the game apparatus includes a cap;
- [5] the game apparatus includes at least one missile;
- [6] the missile is structurally suitable for being pitched or thrown, by hand, at the cap;
- [7] the post is attached to the bowl-floor in such manner as to be operatively integrated thereto;
- [8] the post lies in an upstanding configuration with respect to the bowl-floor;
- [9] the post includes a top rim;
- [10] an undersurface of the cap is suitably structured for engagement with, and removal from, the top rim of the post;
- [11] the apparatus is so structured that, upon the cap being engaged with the top rim of the post, the resulting engagement is a tenacious engagement, which has such a degree of tenacity [is of such nature] that the cap can be knocked off the post upon being struck by the missile, but that the cap substantially cannot be knocked off the post unless struck forcefully and directly by the missile; and
- [12] the cap is much larger in diametral extent than the top rim of the post, to the extent that the cap, when placed on the top rim of the post, would fall off but for the tenacious engagement of the cap with the top rim.

Claim 2 (currently amended). Apparatus of claim 1, wherein:

- [2] one of the top rim of the post and the undersurface of the cap is formed with a stud, and the other is formed with a corresponding recess;

- [3] the stud and recess are dimensioned to be a tapering fit;
- [4] the fit is tapering in the sense that:-
- [5] - the stud is loose within the recess upon the stud being initially brought into engagement with the recess, but the stud becomes tight in the recess as the stud engages further into the recess;
- [6] - the tightness of the fit increases as the stud is forced further into the recess; and
- [7] the fit comprises the said tenacious engagement.

Claim 3 (currently amended). Apparatus of ~~[claim 4]~~ claim 2, wherein:

- [2] the ~~[tightness of]~~ fit that results from a person pressing the cap, by hand, down onto the post, and thereby pressing the stud into the recess, is termed ~~[the hand tightness of the]~~ a hand-tight fit; and
- [3] the hand-tight fit comprises the said tenacious engagement of the cap onto the top rim of the post.

~~[the hand tightness of the fit has such a degree of tenacity that:-~~

- ~~—the cap is capable of being knocked off the post upon being struck by the thrown missile;~~
- ~~—whereby it is not enough to knock the cap off, simply for the missile to strike the post or the bowl]~~

Claim 4 (original). Apparatus of claim 1, wherein the missile is untethered and unguided in that, upon being thrown, the missile follows the trajectory as determined solely by the aim of the person throwing the missile.

Claim 5 (original). Apparatus of claim 1, wherein the cap and the missile are identical as to shape and size, whereby the missile can serve as the cap and the cap can serve as the missile.

Claim 6 (original). Apparatus of claim 1, wherein the game apparatus includes several missiles that are identical to the said missile as to shape and size.

Claim 7 (currently amended). Apparatus of claim 1, wherein the cap is proportioned generally as a flat disc. ~~[and the cap is much larger than the top rim, as to diametral extent]~~

Claim 8 (original). Apparatus of claim 7, wherein the cap is at least five centimetres diameter.

Claim 9 (original). Apparatus of claim 1, wherein the missile weighs at least seventy grams.

Claim 10 (original). Apparatus of claim 1, wherein the bowl-shaped receptacle has steep sides, being so steep that the missile cannot come to rest on the steep sides, whereby the missile can only come to rest either clearly inside or clearly not inside the receptacle.

Claim 11 (original). Apparatus of claim 1, wherein the post is moulded in plastic, and is secured in the centre of the bowl-shaped receptacle by a fastener.

Claim 12 (currently amended). Apparatus of ~~claim 1~~ claim 2, wherein:

- [2] one of the cap and the top rim of the post is formed with a second stud, and the other is formed with a second recess;
- [3] the arrangement of the apparatus is such that, as the said stud and recess are brought into mutual engagement, also the second stud and the second recess are brought into mutual engagement, upon the cap being engaged with the top rim of the post.

Claim 13 (currently amended). A game apparatus, wherein:

- [2] the apparatus includes a bowl-shaped receptacle, suitable for resting on the ground, having a bowl-floor;
- [3] the apparatus includes a post, preferably in the form of a bottle, having a top rim;
- [4] the game apparatus includes a cap;
- [5] the game apparatus includes at least one missile;
- [6] the missile is structurally suitable for being pitched or thrown, by hand, at the cap;
- [7] the post is attached to the bowl-floor in such manner as to be operatively integrated thereto;
- [8] the post lies in an upstanding configuration with respect to the bowl-floor;
- [9] the post includes a top rim;
- [10] an undersurface of the cap is suitably structured for engagement with, and removal from, the top rim of the post;
- [11] the apparatus is so structured that, upon the cap being engaged with the top rim of the post, the resulting engagement is a tenacious engagement, which has such a degree of tenacity that the cap can be knocked off the post upon being struck by the missile, but that the cap substantially cannot be knocked off the post unless struck forcefully and directly by the missile; and
- [12] ~~Apparatus of claim 1, wherein~~ the top rim of the post and the undersurface of the cap

include magnetic materials, arranged so that the cap is retained on the top rim of the post by magnetic attraction, upon the cap being brought into engagement, by hand, with the post.

Claim 14 (currently amended). A game apparatus, wherein:

- [2] the apparatus includes a bowl-shaped receptacle, suitable for resting on the ground, having a bowl-floor;
- [3] the apparatus includes a post, preferably in the form of a bottle, having a top rim;
- [4] the game apparatus includes a cap;
- [5] the game apparatus includes at least one missile;
- [6] the missile is structurally suitable for being pitched or thrown, by hand, at the cap;
- [7] the post is attached to the bowl-floor in such manner as to be operatively integrated thereto;
- [8] the post lies in an upstanding configuration with respect to the bowl-floor;
- [9] the post includes a top rim;
- [10] an undersurface of the cap is suitably structured for engagement with, and removal from, the top rim of the post;
- [11] the apparatus is so structured that, upon the cap being engaged with the top rim of the post, the resulting engagement is a tenacious engagement, which has such a degree of tenacity that the cap can be knocked off the post upon being struck by the missile, but that the cap substantially cannot be knocked off the post unless struck forcefully and directly by the missile; and
- [12] ~~[Apparatus of claim 1, wherein]~~ the top rim of the post and the undersurface of the cap include complementary hook-and-loop fastener elements, arranged so that the cap is retained on the top rim of the post thereby, upon the cap being brought into engagement, by hand, with the post.

Claim 15 (currently amended). Apparatus of claim 1, wherein:

- [2] the post is in two portions, being a bottom portion and a top portion, and preferably the form of the post simulates a bottle;
- [3] the bottom portion is integral with the floor of the bowl;
- [4] the top portion is adapted to be assemblable to, and dis-assemblable from, the bottom portion, by hand manipulation;
- [5] the bowl includes a bowl-rim, and, when the portions are assembled together, the ~~[rim of the bottle]~~ top rim of the post lies a substantial distance above the bowl-rim;

[6] and a topmost extremity of the bottom portion lies substantially below the bowl-rim.

Claim 16 (original). Apparatus of claim 15, wherein the apparatus includes an identical second bowl and an identical second post, having respective top and bottom portions.

Claim 17 (original). Apparatus of claim 16, wherein the two bowls are structured to be stacked together, clam-shell fashion, and to be clipped together, bowl-rim to bowl-rim.

Claim 18 (original). Apparatus of claim 16, wherein the two bowls are structured to be stacked together, one inside the other.